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Donovan Sees Cuba Dropping POW Demands

NEW YORK (AP) — Inter-

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national trouble-shooter James B. Donovan said Monday night that the Cuban government may be persuaded to free — on purely humanitarian grounds — the more than 1,100 prisoners captured in last year's abortive invasion.

Donovan, a New York attorney who returned last week from direct negotiations with the Castro regime, said the prisoners' release was "not a question of exchange, not a question of ransom and not a question of tribute."

He added that "this would not be so if the United States government dealt with Cuba." He explained that such a release might be effected through his efforts "because in my case I represent a private humanitarian group."

The attorney, who earlier this year effected the exchange of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Soviet spy Rudolf Abel, is working without fee for the Cuban families' Committee for Liberation of Prisoners of War.

He suggested the Cuban government would bow to humanitarian considerations because of the need for "food and medicine for Cuban infants, children, the sick and the aged," which the Cuban families committee could furnish.

Donovan broke his silence on his secret trip to Cuba for the first time Monday night as he left a meeting of the Committee for Democratic Voters.